

PRESIDENT : Just tell me what statement you are going to make before you go on.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (Kottayam): A statement as to what has happened to the first, second and third readings of the Chitties Regulation Amendment Bill that were included in the provisional list.

PRESIDENT : The agenda has already been settled and it has been before the Council. You cannot go behind that and make a statement.

MR. O. M. THOMAS (Kottayam): Sir, it is a matter that is looked forward to, by many sections of the people, as being one of considerable importance.

PRESIDENT : If you wanted that statement to be made, you ought to have taken my permission. I do not allow that statement being made here.

THE TRAVANCORE PARTITION BILL.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli): Sir, I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Travancore Partition Bill. Before moving for its second reading, I wish to point out that the Select Committee's report on the Partition Bill was supplied to the members only two days back. The rules of the House say that at least seven days previous to the consideration of the Bill copies must be made available for the use of the members and at least six days' notice must be given about the amendments. I think that some of the members feel that they had not sufficient time to go through the Bill and send in amendments.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (Quilon): With regard to the Bill, may I know what the recommendations of the Select Committee are?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli): The Select Committee has not made any recommendations. The function of the Select Committee was only to submit a report.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (Quilon): May I know what the majority opinion of the members of the Select Committee is?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli): The member has a copy of the report. He can go through it and find out what the majority opinion is.

MR. C. O. MADHAVAN (Ag. Secretary to Government): May I remind the member that the Select Committee's report and the Bill as amended were published in the Gazette dated 8th December 1931, and a copy of the Gazette was sent to all the members.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli): Standing Order 37, clause 1, sub-clause (i) says that if a copy of the report of the Select Committee has not been made available for the use of the members for seven days or if three months have not elapsed since the date of the first publication of the Bill, any member may object to its being taken into consideration. Not that I am particular about the number of days, but some of my friends are of opinion that they got a copy only two days back and were therefore unable to send in their amendments.

PRESIDENT : Was not a copy of the *Gazette* made available to the members?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*) : The members are to be supplied with separate copies of even reports which are published in the *Gazette* so that their attention might be directed to it. I think a question was raised by Pandit Motilal Nehru in the Legislative Assembly on this point that though the Bill was published in the *Gazette of India*, because copies were not made available to the members otherwise than through the *Gazette*, the consideration of it should be postponed as there was not sufficient notice.

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*) : Has it been the practice of Government with regard to other Bills to send copies of Select Committee Reports to the members?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*) : Yes, but this was supplied rather late, and I think, for the convenience of the members and for the better discussion of the Bill, it would be better to postpone it to the next session.

MR. KAYALAM PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Additional Head Sirkar Vakil*) : The Standing Order, no doubt, says that copy of the report of the Select Committee together with copy of the Bill as amended should be circulated among the members. Besides that, the report should be published in the *Gazette*. A copy of the Bill as amended should also be published in the *Gazette* unless the Select Committee decides otherwise. I think that the Select Committee did not desire the publication of this Bill. This is what the Standing Order says : —

Standing Order 35.

"The report of the Select Committee, any minutes that may have been recorded by individual members of the Committee, and, if the Bill has been amended, the Bill as amended by the Committee shall be printed and copies furnished to each member of the Council. The report and minutes, if any, and, if the Bill has been amended, the Bill as amended, or such portion thereof as may have been amended, shall also, unless otherwise directed by the Select Committee, be published in the *Gazette*."

Then Standing Order 37 (1) says :

"After the presentation of the final report of the Select Committee on a Bill the member in charge may move—

- (i) that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration, but any member may object to its being so taken into consideration if a copy of the report has not been available for the use of the members for seven days, or if three months have not elapsed from the date of the first publication of the Bill, and such objection shall prevail unless the President in the exercise of his power to suspend this order allows the report to be taken into consideration."

So, I think Mr. Asan is right in asking for the postponement.

PRESIDENT : Does any other member object to the Bill being taken up for consideration?

MR. E. V. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*) : Sir, in view of the objections set forth by Mr. Asan, I also propose that the consideration of the Bill be postponed.

PRESIDENT : The Bill will now stand over.

The consideration of the Travancore Partition Bill having been postponed, the House passed on to the next item in the agenda.

RESOLUTIONS ON MATTERS OF GENERAL PUBLIC INTEREST.

The following resolution was deemed to have been withdrawn as the member was absent :

MR. K. PADMANABHA PANIKKAR (*Ambalapuzha*) : This Council recommends to the Government that the taxes on *vallams* used purely for agricultural purposes be abolished.

COMMITTEE ON THE REVISION OF SCALES OF PAY AND GRADES OF OFFICERS.

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*) : Sir, I beg to move the following resolution :—

"This Council recommends to the Government that a committee with an elected non-official majority be appointed to suggest measures to bring about greater uniformity in the grades and scales of pay and qualifications of officers of the various Departments of the State".

Sir, it has been repeatedly urged in this Council that the amount that is set apart for the salaries of officers is disproportionately large and that some method should be found out for reducing the same. It has also been brought to the notice of the Council that the low-paid subordinates of the departments, peons and others, are not getting sufficient pay in order to enable them to have a decent living. Another complaint that has been raised with regard to the pay of officers is that the officers in the higher grades—the Heads of Departments including the Dewan and other high-paid officers—are drawing too high salaries that some substantial reduction should be made. A fourth objection that has been levelled against the present system is that many of the departments are over-staffed and that without detriment to efficiency, some reduction could be effected in the number of persons serving in each of the departments.

MR. K. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Quilon*) : May I know whether the member is aware of the existence of the Retrenchment Committee and its labours ?

MR. A. S. DAMODARAN ASAN (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*) : I am fully aware of that—its constitution, how it is functioning and all that. But I know quite well that the Retrenchment Committee will not do the functions which the committee contemplated under my resolution is to perform.

Sir, it is with this object that I suggest that a committee with an elected non-official majority be appointed to go into the whole question and to rectify the defects which have been brought to the notice of this Council on many occasions.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*) : Does the resolution suggest the reduction of appointments ?